

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KUALA 01805 041201Z

70

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 NIC-01

DPW-01 AID-05 /062 W
----- 112371

R 040939Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9469

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 1805

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, MY

SUBJ: INDOCHINA AND COMMUNIST ROCKET ATTACKS

REF: K.L. 1713

1. SUMMARY: ROCKET ATTACKS APRIL 1 BY COMMUNIST PARTY OF MALAYA MARXIST-LENINIST FACTION (CPM/ML) HAVE ADDED TO GOM'S NERVOUSNESS ABOUT DETERIORATING SITUATION IN INDOCHINA. HOWEVER, PRIME MINISTER RAZAK AND OTHER TOP GOM OFFICIALS HAVE SAID PUBLICLY THAT INTERNAL SECURITY SITUATION IS UNDER CONTROL AND THAT THERE IS NO RELATION BETWEEN DOMESTIC EVENTS AND INDOCHINA SITUATION. END SUMMARY.

2. ON EVENING APRIL 1, CRUDE ROCKETS WERE LAUNCHED AGAINST FIVE MILITARY INSTALLATIONS IN KUALA LUMPUR, NEGRI SEMBILAN, JOHORE AND PENANG. ROCKETS WERE LARGELY HOMEMADE, BUT UTILIZED M-45 DUMMY ROCKET FUZES, APPARENTLY OF U.S. MANUFACTURE; DUMMY FUZES (MANUFACTURED IN 1963) WERE HOLLOWED OUT AND FILLED
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KUALA 01805 041201Z

WITH GELIGNITE, THEN FIRED BY SIMPLE TIMING DEVICE. ONE CARIBOU

AIRCRAFT WAS DAMAGED AT AIR FORCE BASE IN K.L.; THERE WAS LITTLE, IF ANY, DAMAGE AT OTHER MILITARY INSTALLATIONS. LARGE NUMBER OF SUSPECTS WERE NETTED IN FOLLOW-UP OPERATIONS, OVER 200 ARRESTED IN K.L. ALONE, AND CPM/ML UNDERGROUND HEADQUARTERS NEAR K.L. AIR BASE WAS RAIDED.

3. ON APRIL 3, NEWSPAPERS, EMBASSIES (INCLUDING U.S.) AND GOVT OFFICES RECEIVED MIMEOGRAPHED TRACTS IN MAIL IN WHICH CPM/ML CLAIMED CREDIT FOR ROCKET ATTACKS. CPM/ML TRACT WAS PRO FORMA DIATRIBE AGAINST CPM CENTRAL COMMITTEE (CPM/CC), ALLEGING THAT CPM/CC IS "CONTROLLED BY A HANDFUL OF REVISIONIST CONSPIRATORS" IN LEAGUE WITH GOM. (FOR ADDITIONAL DETAILS ON CPM FACTIONAL RIVALRIES, SEE K.L. A-22, 2/13/75.)

4. COINCIDENCE OF CPM/ML ROCKET ATTACKS AND NEWS CONCERNING DETERIORATING SITUATION IN INDOCHINA HAS PROVOKED SOME SPECULATION AMONG GOVT OFFICIALS AND PUBLIC THAT THERE MIGHT BE DIRECT LINKAGE BETWEEN FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC EVENTS. HOME AFFAIRS MINISTER GHAZALI SHAFIE, IN RADIO/TV INTERVIEW APRIL 3, DENIED THERE ANY CONNECTION, DIRECT OR INDIRECT, AND INDICATED THAT CPM/ML ACTION WAS PURELY RESULT OF CPM RIVALRIES. HE ADVISED PUBLIC "NOT TO BE TOO IMPRESSED" OVER ROCKET ATTACKS AND HE THOUGHT SITUATION IS "UNDER CONTROL". GHAZALI WENT ON TO SAY THAT SECURITY SITUATION IN SARAWAK IS "VERY ENCOURAGING", BUT THAT HE WILL SEEK TO STRENGTHEN SECURITY IN BORDER AREAS IN MEETINGS WITH THAI AND INDONESIAN AUTHORITIES. HE ALSO SAID "SPECIAL URBAN UNIT" IN POLICE HAS BEEN SET UP TO DEAL WITH COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES IN URBAN AREAS.

5. REGARDING INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, GHAZALI REAFFIRMED CORRECTNESS OF GOM'S NON-ALIGNED FOREIGN POLICY AND SAID THAT SOUTH-EAST ASIAN ZONE OF PEACE, FREEDOM AND NEUTRALITY IS NEEDED. GHAZALI ALSO SAID THAT ASEAN DOES NOT NEED TO BE DEVELOPED INTO A DEFENSE PACT, ASSERTING THAT DEFENSE AGREEMENT IS NEEDED ONLY IF THERE IS AN EXTERNAL ENEMY. MALAYSIA'S AND THAILAND'S ENEMIES, HE CONTINUED, ARE INTERNAL BUT "IF WE START TO BUILD A MILITARY BLOC, OTHER PEOPLE WILL THINK WE HAVE DESIGNS OR WE HAVE ENEMIES."

6. DURING BRIEFING OF SENIOR MILITARY OFFICERS APRIL 3, PM
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 KUALA 01805 041201Z

RAZAK SAID THAT MALAYSIA MUST "TAKE STOCK" OF ITS DEFENSE NEEDS IN LIGHT OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE REGION (READ INDOCHINA), BUT THAT WISDOM OF GOM'S NON-ALIGNED FOREIGN POLICY WILL BE PROVED. HE REITERATED THAT GOM IS PREPARED TO DEAL WITH ANY GOVERNMENT THAT MIGHT EMERGE IN CAMBODIA OR VIETNAM "PROVIDED THAT GOVERNMENT WISHES TO EXTEND ITS FRIENDSHIP TO US." HE ALSO NOTED: "ALTHOUGH WE HAVE FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH COMMUNIST COUNTRIES, WE DO

NOT WISH TO FOLLOW THE COMMUNIST WAY OF LIFE BECAUSE IT IS
TOO MILITANT AND UNSUITABLE FOR OUR PEOPLE."

7. COMMENT: AS INDICATED IN REFTTEL, GOM IS HAVING DIFFICULTY
RECONCILING ITS DOMESTIC ANTI-COMMUNISM WITH REALIZATION THAT
IT WILL PROBABLY HAVE TO LIVE WITH A COMMUNIST, AND POSSIBLY
HOSTILE, ICAOCHINA DIRECTED BY NORTH VIETNAM. WITH REGARD TO
THE DOMESTIC COMMUNIST INSURGENCY, IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT CPM/ML
ROCKET ATTACKS WERE PART OF ITS ONGOING CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE
CPM CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND NOT DICTATED BY EXTERNAL EVENTS.
FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE, WE EXPECT THAT THE GOM WILL HAVE
TO KEEP ON REASSURING ITSELF AND THE PUBLIC THAT ITS INTERNAL
COMMUNIST PROBLEMS ARE MANAGEABLE AND THAT ITS NON-ALIGNED
FOREIGN POLICY, HOPEFULLY INCLUDING FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH
COMMUNIST POWERS, IS THE CORRECT LINE.
UNDERHILL

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SECURITY, POLITICAL SITUATION, COMBAT OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975KUALA01805
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750118-0078
From: KUALA LUMPUR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750481/aaaacwfl.tel
Line Count: 131
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 1713
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 JUL 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <14 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INDOCHINA AND COMMUNIST ROCKET ATTACKS
TAGS: PINS, MY, XC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006